

white tips to the rectrices only half as wide, and the middle of the lower breast and upper part of the abdomen not white to the base, but brown with wide white tips. The colour of the upperside is also lighter than in *R. leucothorax* and almost as pale as in *threnothorax*. The wing is slightly longer than in both the latter species, measuring 87 mm.

This bird may either be a new species, or a hybrid between *R. leucothorax* and *R. threnothorax*, having the white throat and paler back of the latter, white in the middle of the breast and abdomen and to the tips of the rectrices as in the former. Both species occur together in many parts of New Guinea.

Rhipidura fumosa Schlegel is evidently a third species found on Jobi Island, and so far only known from the type in the Leyden Museum. Sharpe was clearly wrong in considering it to be the young of *threnothorax*. Cf. Salvadori, Orn. Pap. ii. p. 56 (1881); also Ogilvie-Grant, Ibis, Suppl. 2, p. 150 (1915).

Dr. ERNST HARTERT communicated the following notes on various species of *Rhipidura*:—

In 'Novitates Zoologicæ,' 1903, p. 242, I united certain *Rhipiduræ* from the northern South-East Islands—*i. e.* from the Key Islands and the islands of the Tiandu group (Taam, Koer and Kilsoein, or Kur and Kilsuin) and the Watubela group (Kisoei or Kisui and Teoor, cf. Nov. Zool. 1901, pp. 1, 2)—under the name of *Rhipidura setosa assimilis*. I am, however, now of opinion that *assimilis*, *setosa*, *tenkatei*, *pallidiceps*, *büttikoferi*, *hoedti*, *bouruensis*, *obiensis*, *gularis*, *cinerea*, *vidua*, *kordensis*, *lenzi*, *niveiventris*, *isura*, and *nigromentalis* are representative subspecies of *Rhipidura rufiventris* Vieill. 1818, which is the oldest name. With regard to most of these forms, Stresemann (Nov. Zool. 1914, p. 130) has already come to the same conclusion. Moreover, what I called fifteen years ago *R. setosa assimilis* is not a uniform group, but is separable into three subspecies:—

1. *Rhipidura rufiventris assimilis* Gray: Key Islands.—

Tips to lateral rectrices whitish buff. Above greyish brown, chest brownish grey, the white spots not very sharply defined. Abdomen buff. Wings, ♂ 85–88, ♀ 81 mm.; tail, ♂ 83–89 mm. Since mentioning these birds in 1903 we have received more specimens, and have now 8 males and 1 female from Tual (Little Key) and Add (north of Great Key), all collected by the late Heinrich Kühn.

2. *Rhipidura rufiventris finitima*, subsp. nov. : Teoor and Kisoei in the Watubela Group, north of Key.—Very much like *R. r. assimilis*, but upperside, especially crown, darker, the tips to the lateral tail-feathers brownish buff, abdomen as a rule slightly richer in colour. Larger: wing, ♂ 88–91·7, ♀ 87–88; tail 89–92 mm. Type: ♂, Kisoei, 13.iii.1900. No. 2084, H. Kühn coll.

3. *Rhipidura rufiventris perneglecta*, subsp. nov. : Taam, Kilsoein, and Koer in the Tiandu Group.—Upperside still darker than in *finitima*; chest darker and with the white spots more sharply defined; abdomen somewhat richer in colour. Tips to the lateral tail-feathers almost pure white. Bill larger. Wing, ♂ 89–92, ♀ 86–87 mm. Type: ♂ ad., Taam, 22. vii. 1899. H. Kühn coll., No. 1352.

Rhipidura squamata henrici, subsp. nov.

Similar to *Rh. squamata squamata* from the Banda Islands, but differs in the more conspicuous, more rufous-cinnamon, less brownish, and slightly wider outer edges to the inner primaries and secondaries, which give a more rufous outer aspect to the wing. The middle tail-feathers are also less dark than in the Banda form. In the majority, but not in all examples, the sides of the breast and abdomen are less blackish, but this difference should be confirmed by a bigger series from Banda, from where we have only seven skins, and not all in very good condition. Apparently a little larger: wing of 8 ♂ ♂ 74–78 mm., against 72–75·5 in 6 ♂ ♂ of *squamata*.

Hab. Outlying small islands of the Key Group (Ohimas, Godan, Roemadan, Cape Ngidioen, Soa), Koer and Manggoer groups, and Taam. A single female in very worn plumage

from Maar in the Ceram-laut group evidently belongs to the new form, and so do apparently three specimens from Pulo Babi in the Aru group.

Type: ♀ from Kilsoein, Koer group, 2.vii.1892. H. Kühn coll., No. 1287 (Tring Museum).

In 'The Ibis,' Suppl. 2, p. 149 (1915), Mr. Ogilvie-Grant named a *Rhipidura* from Rendova in the Solomon Islands *Rhipidura harterti*, but, as Mathews, Nov. Zool. xviii. p. 319 (1912), had already named a "*Rhipidura flabellifera harterti*," Mr. Ogilvie-Grant's name cannot be used, and as the Rendova bird is, in my opinion, undoubtedly a subspecies of *Rhipidura rufifrons* (Lath.) from Australia, I hereby call it

Rhipidura rufifrons granti, nom. nov.

The differences from *rubrofrontata* pointed out by Mr. Ogilvie-Grant are quite conspicuous. We had failed to notice them, as we had no topotypical specimens of *rubrofrontata* from Guadalcanar. I accept Mr. Grant's diagnosis, and designate as the type of *R. r. granti* a male from Rendova, 27.ii.1904, No. A. 1381, A. S. Meek coll., in the Tring Museum.

The wings of *R. r. granti* measure: 12 ♂♂ 74-78, 7 ♀♀ 68.5-72 mm.

Rendova, Gizo, Vella Lavella, and Kulambangra Islands.

* *Rhipidura rufifrons commoda*, subsp. nov.

Specimens from Bougainville, again, differ from *granti* in having the ear-coverts brown as in *R. r. rubrofrontata*, and in being much smaller. They differ from *R. r. rubrofrontata* in having nearly the basal half of the middle tail-feathers rufous as in *granti*. The rufous colour extends also further up the back. The colour of the back and rump is also much darker in *rubrofrontata*. Wings: 4 ♂♂ 68-70.5, 3 ♀♀ 64-65 mm.

Bougainville. Two specimens from Choiseul appear to be inseparable from the Bougainville ones.

Type: ♂ ad. Bougainville, 26. xii. 1907. No. 3669, A. S. Meek coll.